

CHAPTERFOUR

RESERVE CATEGORIES

There are three Reserve categories: Ready Reserve, Standby Reserve and Retired Reserve. All members of the Army National Guard and Air National Guard are in the Ready Reserve or Retired Reserve. Each of the other Reserve components has members in each category. Manpower categories within each of the Reserve components are based on training, pay, status, and priority for mobilization. Appendix A at the back of this Handbook contains Reserve component personnel strengths by category.

Ready Reserve

The Ready Reserve is made up of three subgroups: the Selected Reserve, the Individual Ready Reserve and the Inactive National Guard. Thus, the Ready Reserve consists of units and individuals subject to order to active duty to augment the Active forces in time of war or national emergency.

Selected Reserve

The Selected Reserve is composed of units and individuals designated by their Service and approved by the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, as essential to wartime missions. They have priority for training, equipment and personnel over other Reserve elements. The Selected Reserve consists of soldiers assigned to troop program units (TPU), Individual Mobilization Augmentation Program (IMA), and the Active Guard Reserve (AGR) Program. The TPU consists of soldiers assigned to Tables of Organization and Equipment or Tables of

Distribution and Allowances who normally perform 48 inactive duty training assemblies and 14 days of annual training per year. IMAs are members of the Selected Reserve not attached to an organized Reserve unit. IMAs are assigned to Active component organizations, the Selective Service System, or the Federal Emergency Management Agency. They fill individual billets required shortly after mobilization. The AGR Program consists of soldiers serving on active duty for 180 days or more for the purpose of organizing, administering, recruiting, instructing, or training the Reserves.

Individual Ready Reserve (IRR)

The Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) consists of soldiers assigned to one of the following Ready Reserve Control Groups: Annual Training, Reinforcement, or Officer Active Duty. The IRR is a manpower pool of pre-trained individuals who have already served in Active component units or in the Selected Reserve and have some part of their Military Service Obligation (MSO) remaining. IRR members are liable for involuntary active duty and fulfillment of mobilization requirements.

Inactive National Guard (ING)

The ING consists of Army National Guard personnel who are in an inactive status (The Air National Guard does not maintain members in the ING). Members of the ING are attached to National Guard units but do not participate in training activities.

Upon mobilization under the required authority, they would report to their units. Members of the ING must also report annually.

Standby Reserve

Personnel assigned to the Standby Reserve have completed all obligated or required service or have been removed from the Ready Reserve due to circumstances of

retired pay but have not reached age 60, and who have not elected discharge and are not voluntary members of the Ready or Standby Reserve.

Selected Reserve End Strengths

While all segments of the Reserve components are subject to mobilization during war or national emergency declared by Congress, the Selected Reserve is the

Table 3
Selected Reserve Strength
(In Thousands)

Component	1980 (Actual)	1989 (Actual)	1995 (Actual)	1996 (Requested)
ARNG	366.6	457.0	379.9	373.0
USAR	213.2	319.2	241.3	230.0
USNR	87.1	151.5	100.5	98.9
USMCR	35.7	43.6	40.9	42.3
ANG	96.3	116.1	109.8	112.7
USAFR	59.8	83.2	78.2	74.0
USCGR	11.9	12.0	7.3	8.0
Total	880.2	1,182.6*	953.1	938.8

* FY89 represents the largest ever Selected Reserve End Strength

civilian employment, temporary hardship, or disability. Standby Reservists maintain affiliation, but are not normally assigned to a unit; however, Standby Reservists in an active status may affiliate with a unit for training. The Standby Reserve is a pool of trained individuals who could be mobilized if necessary.

Retired Reserve

The Retired Reserve is comprised of all Reserve officers and enlisted personnel who receive retired pay on the basis of active duty and/or Reserve service. Also included are all Reserve officers and enlisted personnel who are otherwise eligible for

most highly trained and ready category of the Reserve Force. Most Selected Reservists are assigned to units which conduct monthly and annual training. Selected Reservists will usually be the first to mobilize. As the primary source of timely augmentation of the Active force, the Selected Reserve receives the highest priority within each Service component. The Selected Reserve end strength for selected years is shown in Table 3 below.

Individual Ready Reserve Growth

The Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) is the principal source of trained individuals for military manpower shortages in the

Active and Reserve components in the event of a major or protracted operational contingency. Individual Ready Reservists bring both Active and Reserve units to wartime strength, replace unskilled personnel in critical positions, and provide an initial source of replacements. The IRR reached a peak strength of over 1.5 million in the early 1970s during the Vietnam conflict. Beginning in 1973, the IRR experienced declining strength which lasted until 1978. Increases in both Active and Reserve strength levels during the 1980s fostered parallel growth in the IRR. The increase in the military service obligation from six to eight years, enacted in 1984, along with IRR bonuses, more intensive management efforts, and the drawdown of both the Active force and the Selected Reserve generated significant increases in IRR strength in the early 1990s. Periodic IRR strength levels over the past two decades have been as follows:

- FY 1971-1,593,000 (peak strength)
- FY 1978-356,000 (low point)
- FY 1980-413,000
- FY 1989- 466,000*
- FY 1993- 791,000*
- FY 1995- 695,000* (Actual)
- FY 1996- 810,000* (Estimate)

* Includes Coast Guard IRR